Survey on Perceptions of Syrian **Refugees in Lebanon** Between resilience and vulnerability

A STUDY DONE BY THE POLITICAL SCIENCE INTITUTE AT USJ AND FUNDED BY UNHCR

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The methodology used and the results obtained are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not engage the organizations that supported this sudy. (V6.0)





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Syrian refugees are becoming increasingly vulnerable while worries are rising among Lebanese decisionmakers.

Dynamics in relationships between Syrian refugees and host communities are fluctuating as the Syrian crisis continues.

The Lebanese Government has taken several measures on Lebanon's borders to control the movement of Syrian nationals, in efforts to manage the influx of Syrians into the country.

In order to have a legal status, the following is needed: registration fee of \$200 (recently removed), sponsor, rent contract, and commitment not to work. Also, UNHCR was asked to stop registration.

➡

Two suveys were done:

- One in 2015
- One in 2016

To assess, compare, analyze and understand.



- Continue to measure perception of Syrian refugees on safety and security, access to services, and analyze the causes behind those perceptions.
- Continue to measure perception of the Lebanese community with regards to Syrians, access to services, and perceived threats to local communities.
- Up to date information about tension levels in the country.
- Comparison of indicators between 2015 and 2016 to evaluate change over time.
- Involve students and professors in research related to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

The Political Science Institute would like to thank:

- OURSE (Observatory of the socio-economic reality in USJ) surveyors, Jacqueline Harfouche, and Chohig Kasparian for their support and expertise.
- USJ Ethics Committee and Research Council for their support.
- Surveyors among USJ students, social workers, and Syrian students: Mario Abd El Ahad, Jassem Alnaemat, Mohammad Belal Alkheja, Dania Bek, Youmna Cham, Khatchig Ghosn, Jomana Khamousia, Nadine Kichly, Sanaa Kordi, Katina Mousaoumay, Tonia Moussaoumay, Rasha Salah, Mousa Shammas, Inès Zaki.
- General Elie Darazi for helping our teams access all areas in Lebanon.
- UNHCR for funding this study via RDPP.

Methodology and Timeframe

Syrian Refugees

 1200 questionnaire filled in 120 villages sampled according to UNHCR data; sampling in every village according to type of Syrian residence, knocking on doors with random selection in every household.

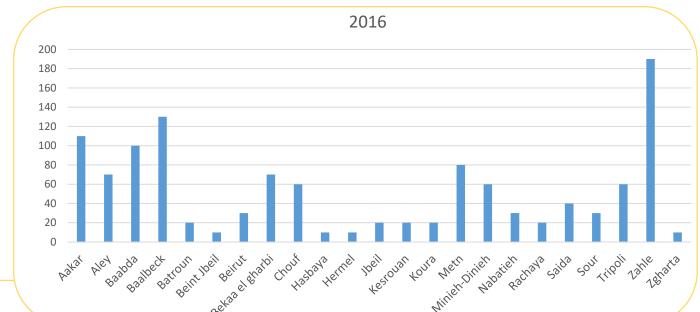
Lebanese Community

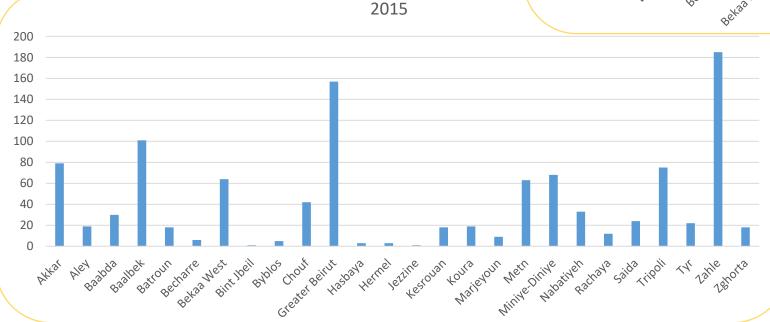
 600 questionnaire filled in the same villages and same neighborhood; knocking on doors with random selection in every household.

1st Survey: June 18-27 2015 2nd Survey: August 2-17 2016

Sampling

Regional distribution proportional to UNHCR refugee distribution







Syrian Refugee Questionnaire

Gender/Age origin/Occu		Registration with UNHCR/General Security	Safety level	Feelings towards authorities (Police, GS, Army, Municipality)
Exposure to threat/insult/assault /blackmailing + source + response	Checkpoints/ Curfews/Random checks and patrols	Problems accessing services (Health, Education, Electricity, etc.)	Feelings towards UNHCR, NGOS	Feelings towards Lebanese
Subject to Raid/Search/ Arrest/Eviction/ etc.	Movement restriction	Feeling welcomed?	Similarities between the 2 cultures	Friendships in Lebanon
		Return to Syria		

Lebanese Questionnaire

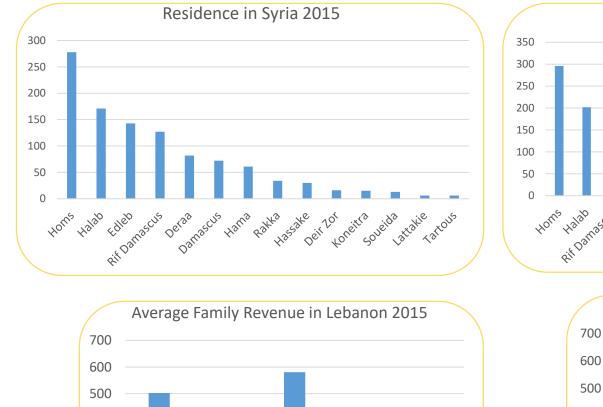
	e/Region of upation/etc.	Safety level	Safety level Willingness to hire a Syrian refugee		
Exposure to threat/ insult/assault/back mailing + source + response	Checkpoints/ Curfews/Random checks and patrols	Interaction with Syrian refuges	Willingness to send kids to school with Syrian refugees	Willingness to marry Syrian refugee	
Syrian impact on public services	Positive/Negative impact from syrian refugees	Feelings towards Syrians: hatred/fear/respect/ compassion	Similarities between the 2 cultures?	Syrian friendships	
		Media impact on public opinion			

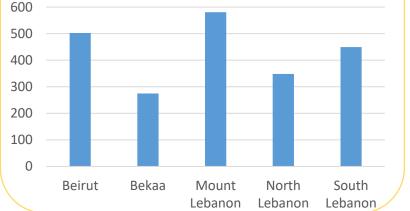
Results

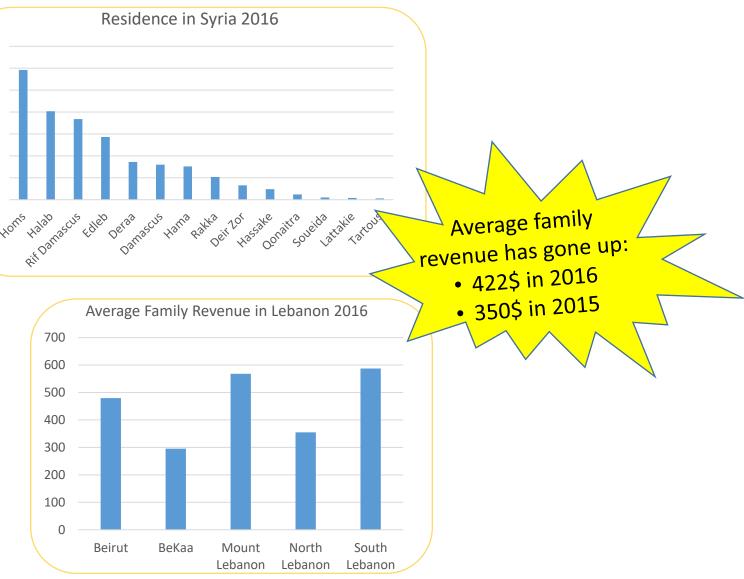
1-Syrian Perception

Economic Resilience?

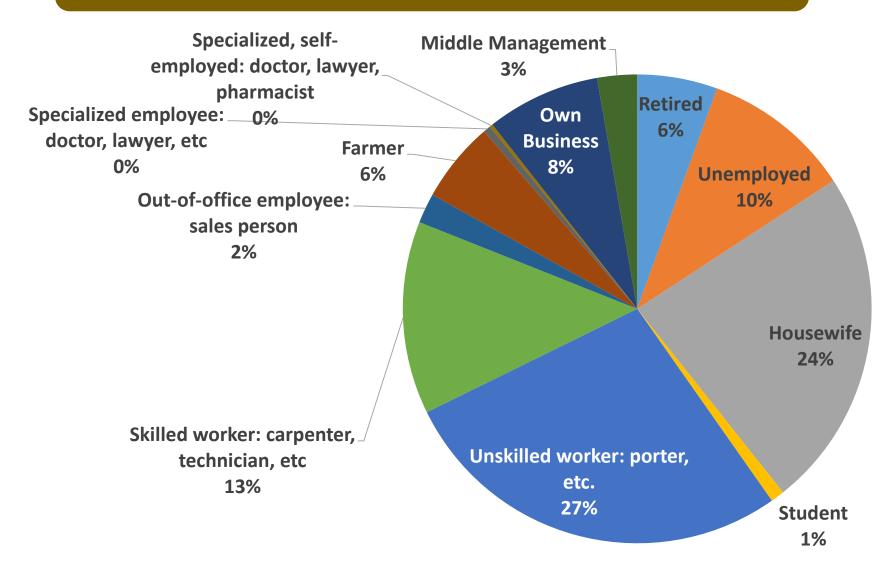
Sample Characteristics







Refugee Employment In Lebanon



% working has not changed: 61% in 2016 62% in 2015 Most are skilled/unskilled workers, with some in farming.

Refugee Employment In Lebanon

JOB IN SYRIA

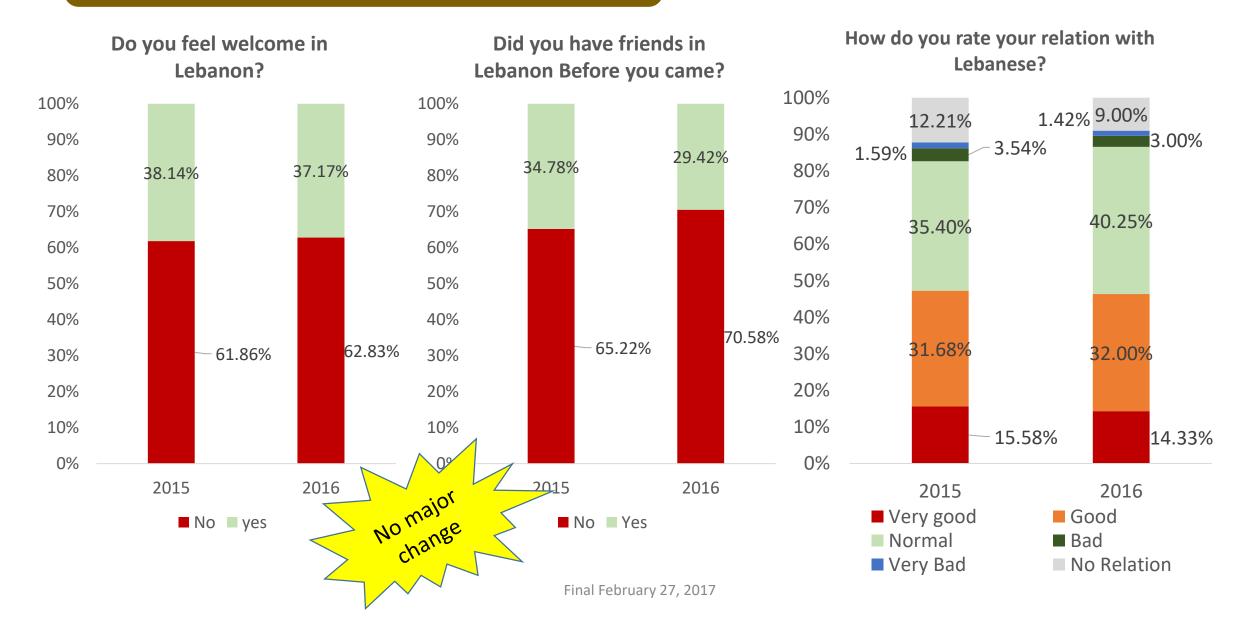
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										Out of			Specialized,		
			1	Unempl			Unskilled	Skilled		office	Office	Manag	self	Own	Work in
	Row Labels	T Ret	etired	oyed	Students	Housewife	worker	Worker	Farming	employee	Employee	ement	employed	Business	Syria
	Retired	5	57%	9%	3%	11%	11%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	2%
	Unemployed	(0%	74%	0%	2%	7%	5%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	5%	4%
1	Students	f	6%	8%	(9%)	11%	32%	8%	1%	8%	1%	9%	0%	6%	8%
É	Housewife		1%	2%	0%	87%	4%	0%	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	22%
Z	Unskilled worker	٤	8%	5%	0%	3%	76%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	11%
9	Skilled worker	5	5%	4%	0%	2%	23%	59%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	4%	10%
ž	Farming	f	6%	12%	0%	6%	39%	11%	(20%)	1%	0%	2%	0%	4%	18%
	Out of office employee	5	5%	5%	0%	0%	47%	11%	0%	26%	0%	5%	0%	0%	1%
	Office Employee	5	5%	13%	3%	24%	21%	5%	0%	3%	13%	3%	0%	11%	2%
	Middle Management	1	10%	11%	1%	7%	21%	14%	2%	7%	0%	12%	0%	13%	4%
	Upper Management	1	14%	2 9 %	0%	14%	0%	29%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Specialized, self employe	ed (0%	7%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	21%	14%	7%	36%	0%	1%
	Own Business	f	6%	10%	0%	4%	28%	15%	4%	1%	1%	3%	0%	(28%)	18%
	Work in Lebanon	f	6%	10%	1%	24%	27%	13%	6%	2%	1%	3%	0%	8%	100%

The mapping of work in Syria against work in Lebanon shows that farming skills are unused, as 80% worked in other areas.

Students (of age 18 and above) have not been able to pursue their education (only 9% did). Other shifts are highlighted in the table...

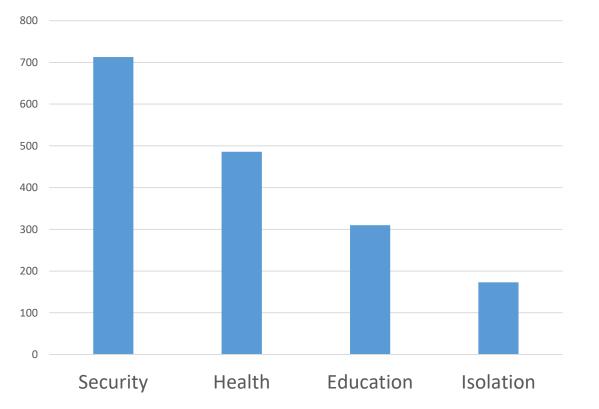
Relation with Lebanese



Security and Vulnerability

Worries

What worries you most during your stay in Lebanon? 2016



When asked to choose between a series of worries, refugees rated **security highest**. Health came next, followed by Education...

When asked to add other worries, 33% of those who responded mentioned rent, work, and inflation.

Registration and Legal Status

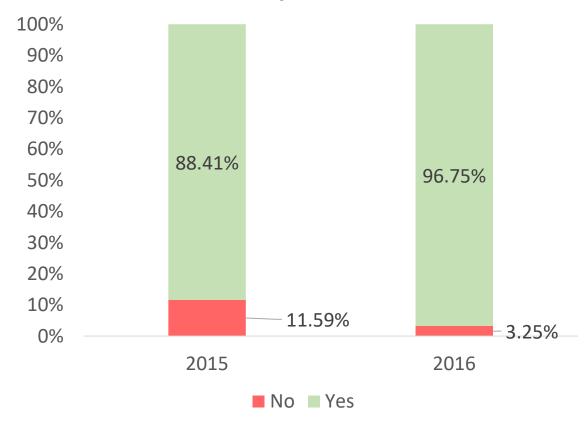


Main Reason for not having legal residency in 2016: financial (mentioned by 80% of respondents) and inability to find a sponsor (mentioned by 68% of respondents)

Legal Status in Lebanon? 2015 2016 Have Residency 30.05 21.3 No Residency 69.95 78.7 (44.6 waiting for renewal)

Safety

Does your legal residency impact the extent to which you feel safe?



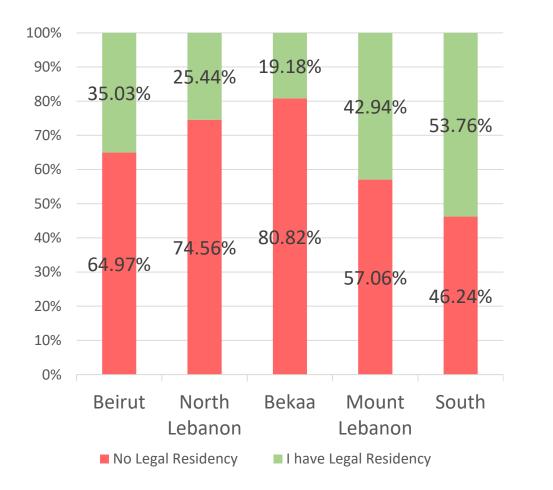
2015: 88.41% feel that residency impacts safety

2016: 96.75% feel that residency impacts safety

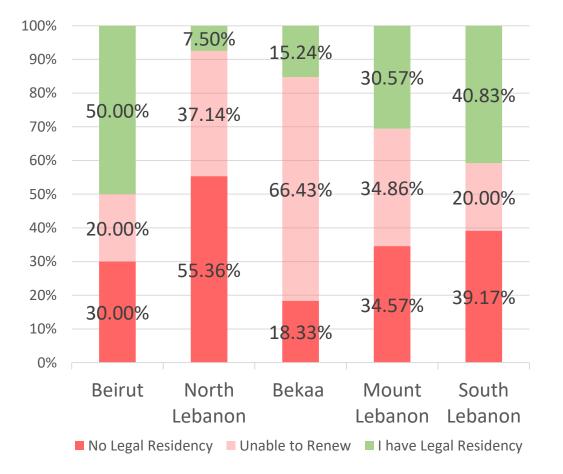
Legal Status

In 2016, 21% have their residency, while in 2015 30% had their residency. In 2016, 48% of those who have legal residency said it will expire in 1 to 3 months.

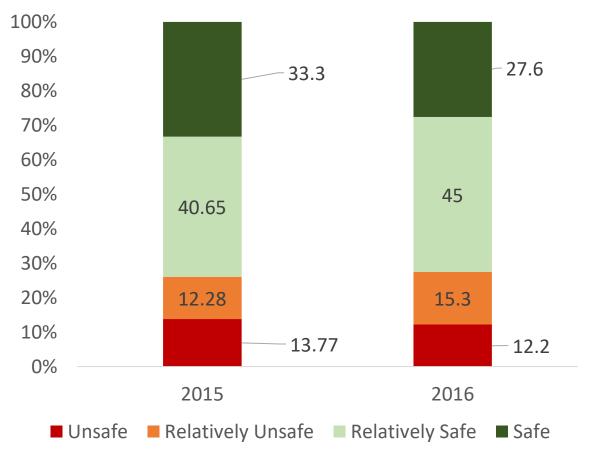
Do you have residency? 2015



Do you have residency? 2016



Safety



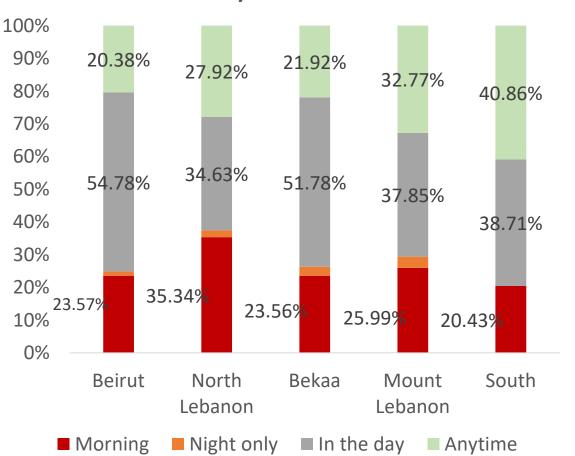
Do you feel safe in Lebanon?

2015: In Beirut 34% feel Unsafe North Lebanon: 30% feel Unsafe Bekaa: 27% feel Unsafe Mount Lebanon: 18% feel Unsafe South: 13% feel Unsafe

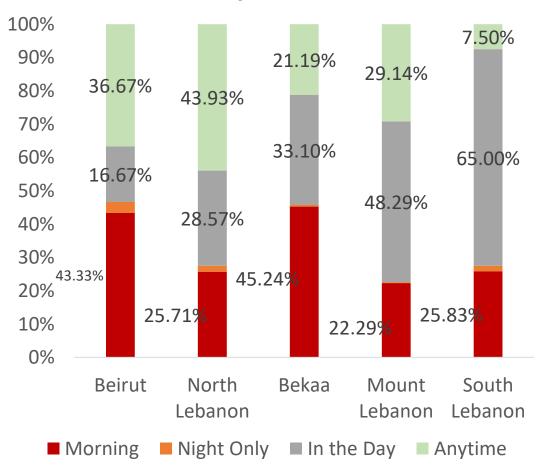
2016:

In Beirut 30% feel Unsafe North Lebanon: 34% feel Unsafe Bekaa: 34% feel Unsafe Mount Lebanon: 17% feel Unsafe South: 21% feel Unsafe

Safety

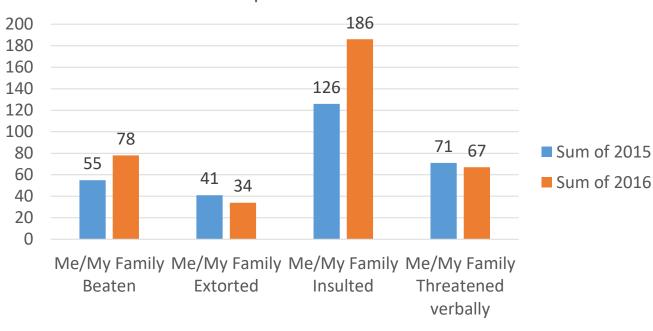


What time do you feel safe to move? 2015



What time do you feel safe to move? 2016

Assault



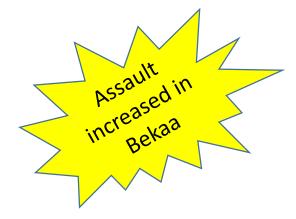
Number of Respondents Assaulted out of 1200

- 293 personal assaults reported in 2015 and 365 reported in 2016.
- 86% of these cases where explicitly blamed on Lebanese offenders in 2015 and 87% in 2016.

2015

	Beirut/Mount	North		South	Grand			
	Lebanon	Lebanon	Bekaa	Lebanon	Total			
Assault	89	84	101	19	293			
Total								
Respondents	334	283	365	93	1075			
	27%	30%	28%	20%	27%			
2016								

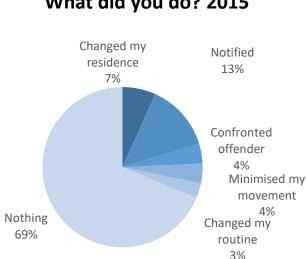
	Beirut/Mount	North		South	Grand
	Lebanon	Lebanon	Bekaa	Lebanon	Total
Assault	97	80	162	26	365
Total					
Respondants	380	280	420	120	1200
	26%	28%	39%	22%	30%



Raids, harassment, insults...

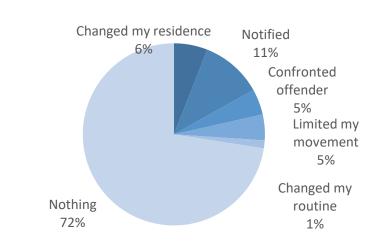
	Total Assaults 2015	Of Which, by civilian (2015)	Total Assaults 2016	Of Which, by civilian (2016)
Insults	303	241	349	285
Harrassed	262	200	325	256
Beaten	95	66	134	98
Arrests	57	7	124	14
Raided/Searched	195	18	265	17
Eviction	5	3	59	44
Expulsion	17	7	31	11
Blackmailed	135	116	115	104
TOTAL	1069	658	1402	829

Increase insults



What did you do? 2015

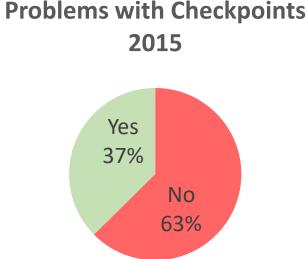
- In 2015, 46% of Syrian Refugees have been victim of abuse while in Lebanon. 69% did nothing about it.
- In 2016, 50% of Syrian Refugees have been victim of abuse while in Lebanon. 72% did nothing about it.
- The percentage of refugees who reported insults, harassment, blackmailing, eviction, etc. by civil society increased from a total of 658 in 2015 to a total 829 in 2016.



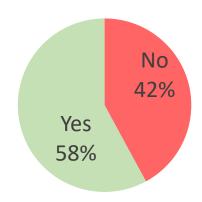
What did you do? 2016

Checkpoints

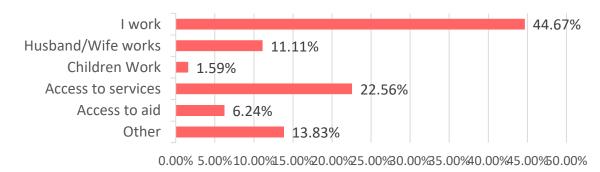
37% had problems withcheckpoints in 2015.58% have problems withcheckpoints in 2016.



Problems with Checkpoints 2016

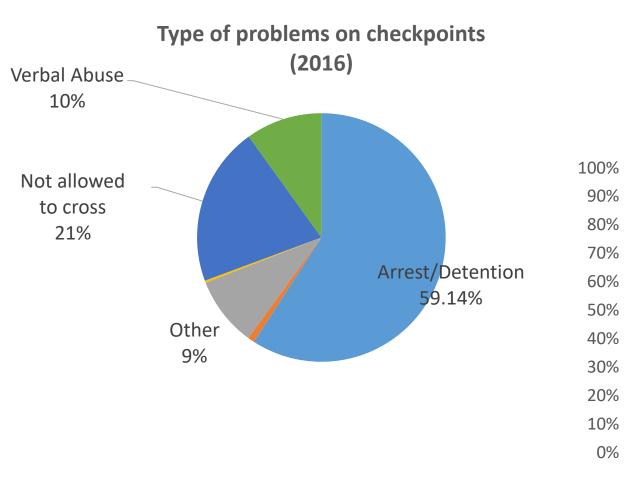


Why are checkpoints important? (2016)

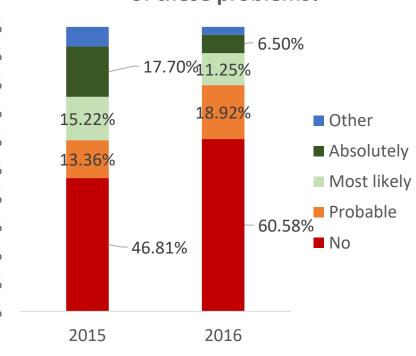


Most respondents said that checkpoints are important to them. In 2016: 56% of them said the main reason is to go to work, while 23 % mentioned access to services, and 6% mentioned access to aid.

Checkpoints

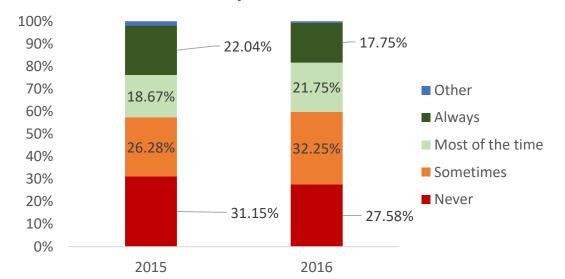


Will you change residence because of these problems?



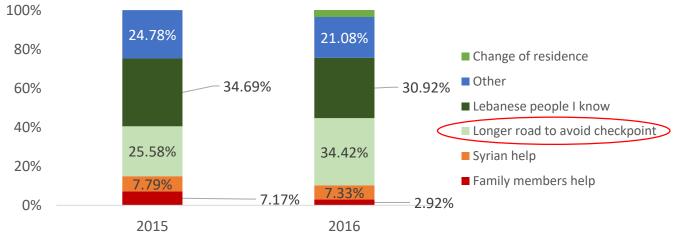
59% worry about Arrest/Detention on checkpoints, while 21% are worried not to be able to cross, and 10% worry about verbal abuse. Respondents are less likely to change residence in order to solve this problem.

Freedom of Movement

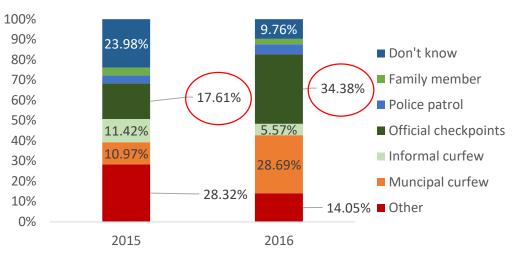


Difficulty to move around?

How do you solve this problem?







No noticeable change in difficulty to move around reported by Refugees. However, more refugees realize that this is due to checkpoints (34% in 2016 compared to 18% in 2015).

Perception of Authorities

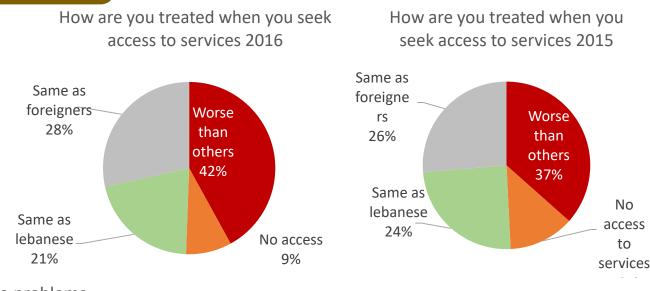
Approval score of most institutions slightly raised. Less people "don't know".

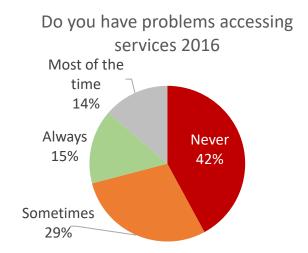
Very good = 5, Good = 4, Don't know = 3, Bad = 2, Very bad = 0

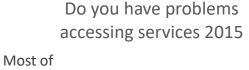
		Very				Don't know	Approval Score	Approval Score
Relations with	Year	Good %	Good %	Bad %	Very Bad %	%	2015	2016
ISF	2015	6.2	44.1	9.5	5.7	<mark>34.5</mark>	3.36	
ISF	2016	3.3	63.3	9.7	2.8	<mark>20.9</mark>		3.55
Army	2015	11.7	47.9	12.3	6.9	<mark>21.2</mark>	3.45	
Анну	2016	7.9	64.1	11.5	4.2	<mark>12.3</mark>		3.6
Conoral Socurity	2015	6.05	44.37	21.67	11.26	<mark>16.65</mark>	3.12	
General Security	2016	3.3	63.3	14.7	4.4	<mark>14.3</mark>		3.46
Municipality	2015	8.09	42.79	10.14	4.19	<mark>34.79</mark>	3.4	
Municipality	2016	6.6	62.4	6.7	2.2	<mark>22.1</mark>		3.65
	2015	11.81	49.49	19.44	6.14	<mark>13.12</mark>	3.41	
UNHCR	2016	9.1	57.3	14.6	9.4	<mark>9.6</mark>		3.42

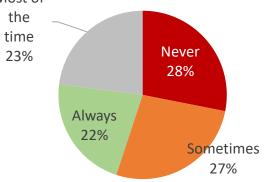
Access to services

- 45% had problems accessing services • in 2015 and 29% in 2016.
- 37% said they were treated worse ٠ than others when accessing services in 2015 and 42% in 2016.





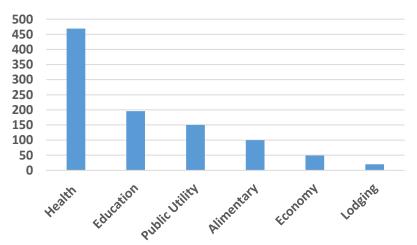




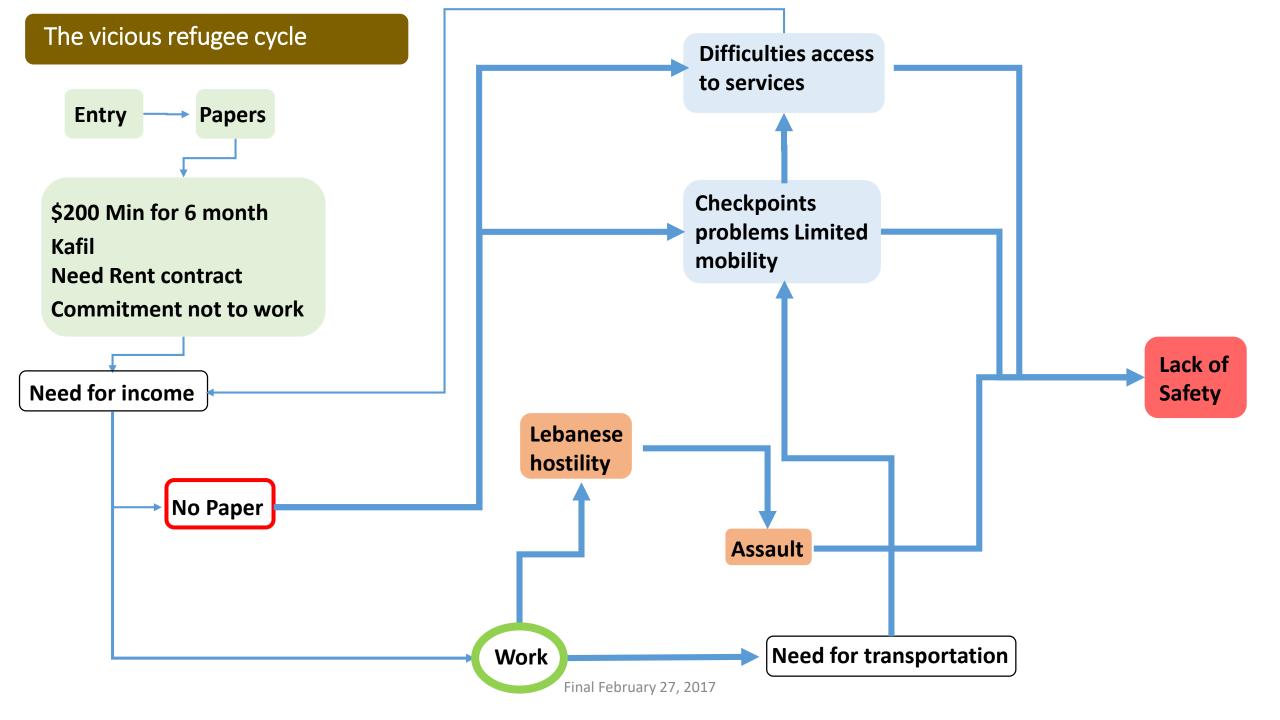


No

to



Impact on Refugee Stiation

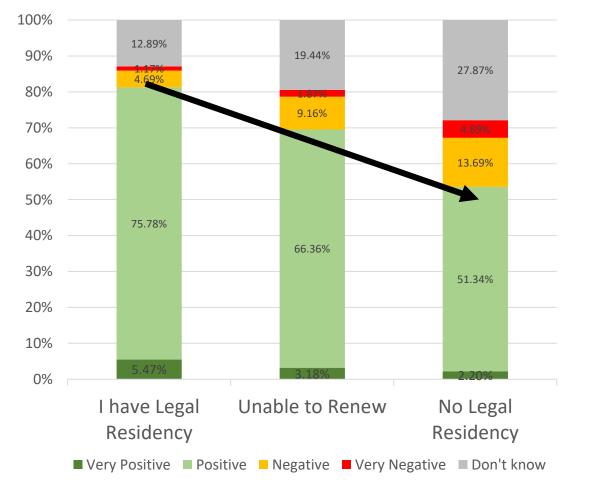


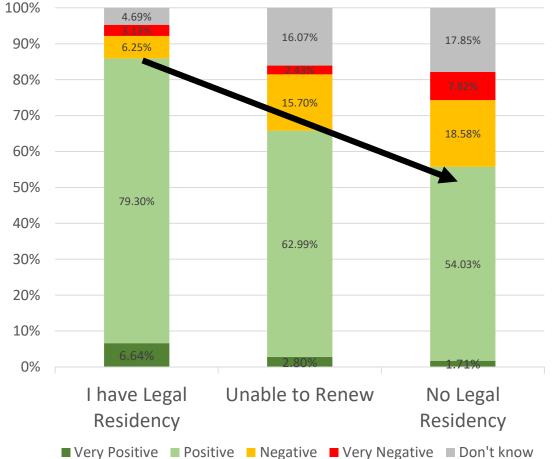
Impact on Perception of Security Agencies

Perception of security agencies is lower among refugees who don't have legal residency.

Perception of Police 2016

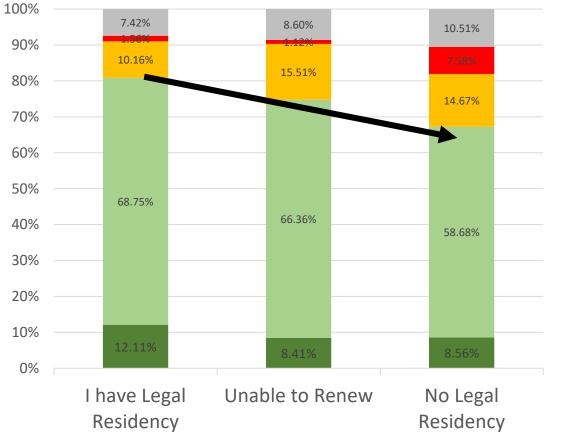
Perception of General Security 2016





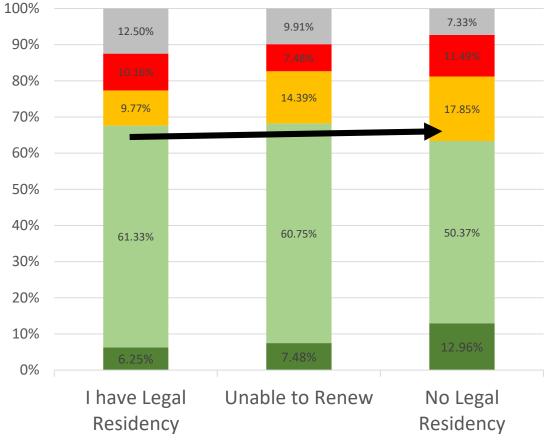
Impact of Illegal Status on Perception of Host and UNHCR

Perception of Lebanese 2016



■ Very positive ■ Positive ■ Negative ■ Very negative ■ Don't know

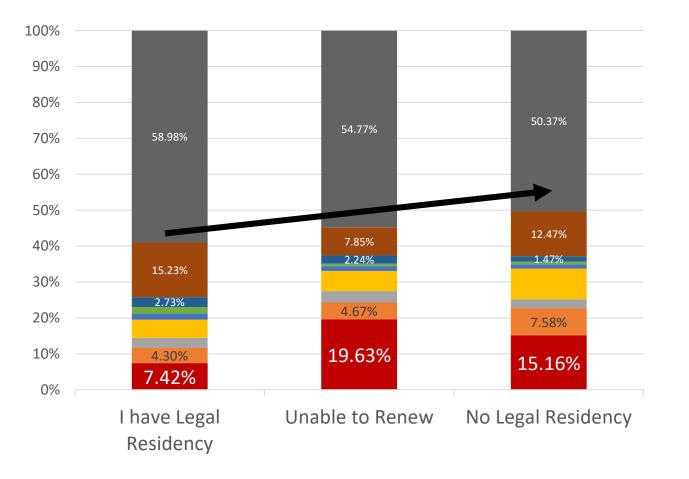
Perception of UNHCR 2016



Very Positive Positive Negative Very Negative Don't know

Impact on Assault

Assault 2016



No Assault

- Heard stories of other Syrians insulted/ threatened/ assaulted
- My friends were insulted
- My friends were threatened verbally
- My friends were assaulted/ beaten
- Me/ my family were assaulted/ beaten

Me/ my family were blackmailed

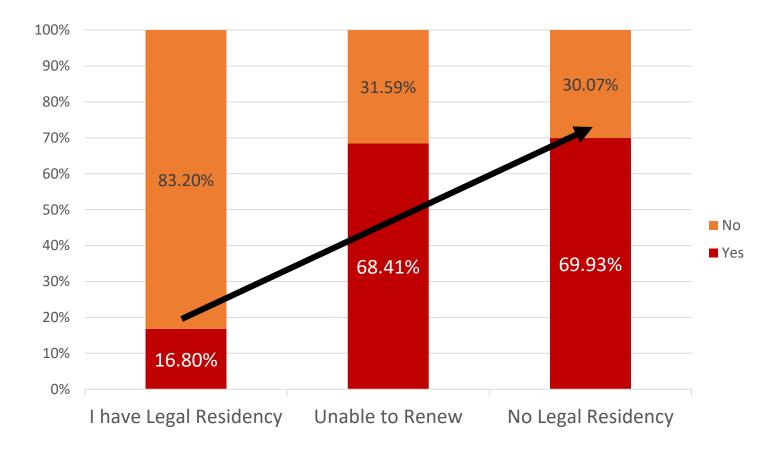
Me/ my family were threatened verbally

Me/ my family were insulted

Those who don't have legal residency are more likely to be assaulted.

Impact on Checkpoint Problems

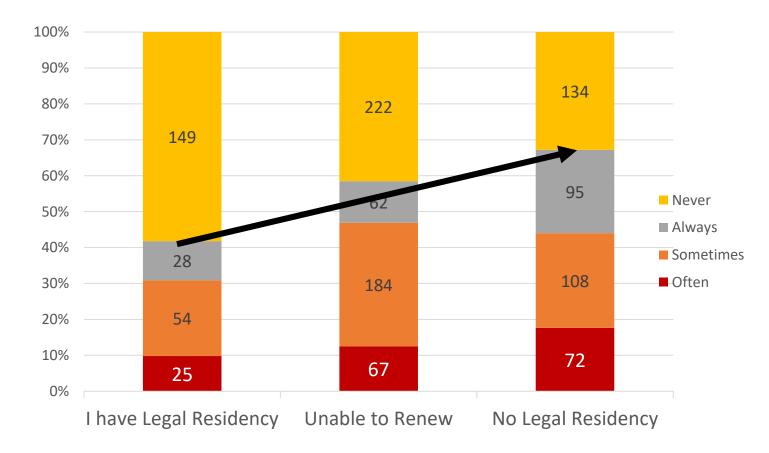
Checkpoints problems 2016



Those who don't have legal residency have more checkpoint problems.

Impact on Access to Services

Problems accessing services 2016

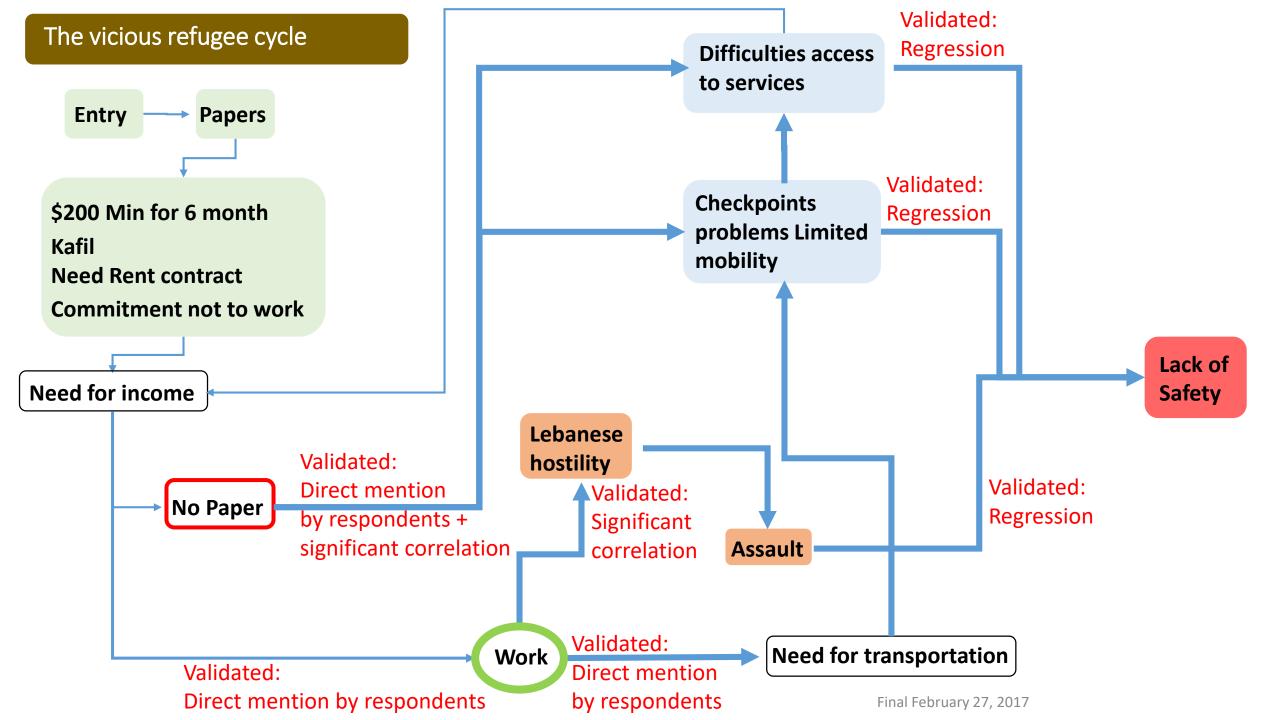


Those who don't have legal residency have more problems accessing services. The model was tested in a stepwise regression against the variable safety.

Significant variables are: Checkpoint Problems, Relation with Local Authorities, Access to Services, Mobility Limitation, and Assault. These variables were either coded on a 4 or 5 points scale (depending on the number of answers), or coded as binary dummy variables.

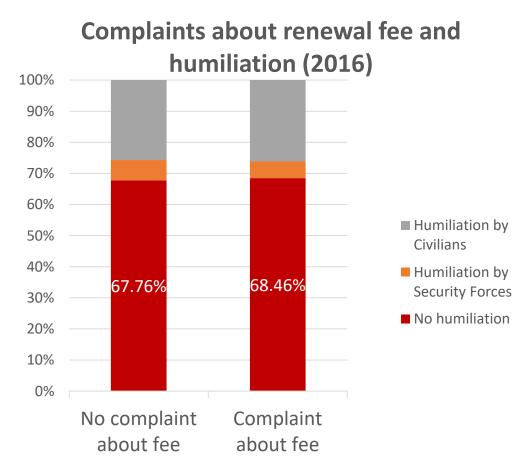
They all turned out significant for 2015 and 2016 with no difference between the two years ("Year" dummy variable not significant).

	1		Coefficients	Standard Error	P-value
Regression S	Statistics	Intercept	1.52	0.11	0.00
Multiple R	0.413844	Checkpoints problems	-0.18	0.05	<mark>0.00</mark>
R Square	0.171267	Relation with local			
Adjusted R		authorities	0.21	0.03	<mark>0.00</mark>
Square	0.169073	Difficulty to Access Services	-0.08	0.02	0.00
Standard Error	0.888921	Limited Mobility	-0.08	0.02	0.00
Observations	2274	Assault	-0.07	0.04	0.07
		Year	-0.07	0.06	0.20



Impact of Fee and Sponsorship

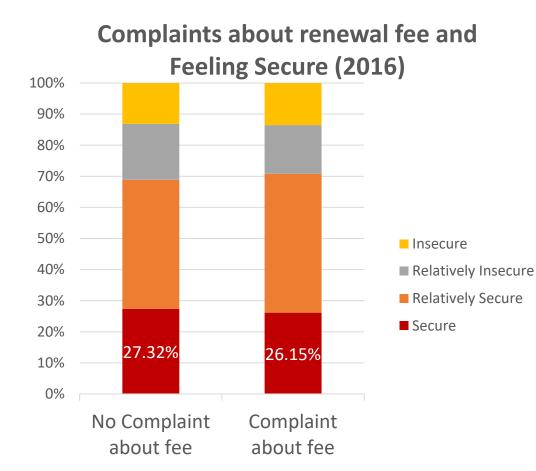
Those referring to sponsorship as a difficulty with regards to legal registration seem to be more subject to humiliation.

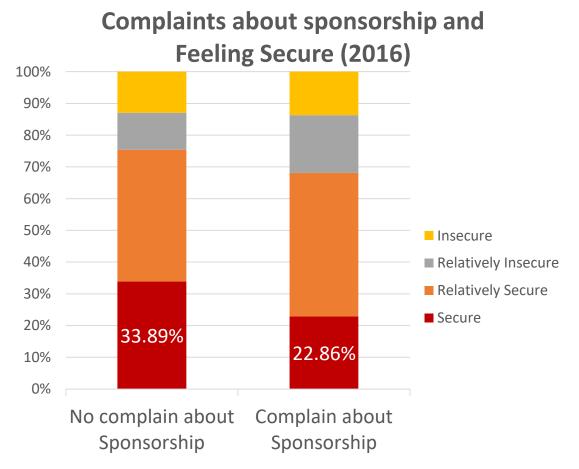


Complaints about sponsorship and humiliation (2016) 100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% By Civilians 40% 77.08% By Security Forces 64.23% 30% No Humiliation 20% 10% 0% No complaint Complaint about about sponsorship sponsorship

Impact of Fee and Sponsorship

Those referring to sponsorship as a difficulty with regards to legal registration seem to be less secure.

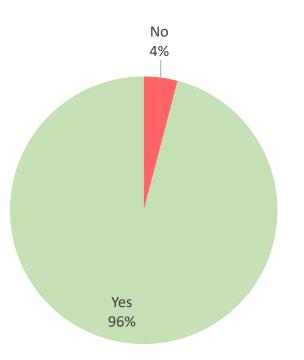




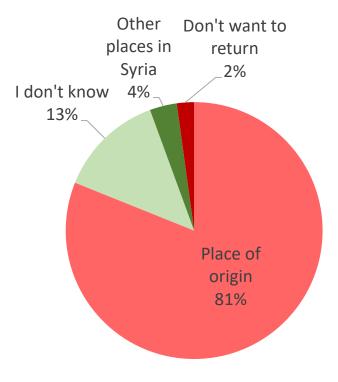
Return and Resettlement

Return: 2016

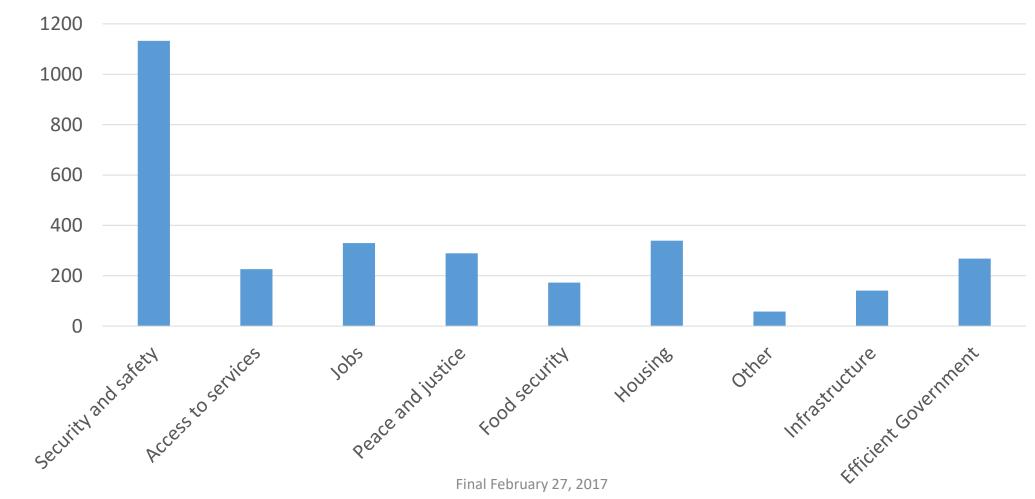
If things go back to normal, would you like to return to Syria?



If you go back to Syria, where would you live?



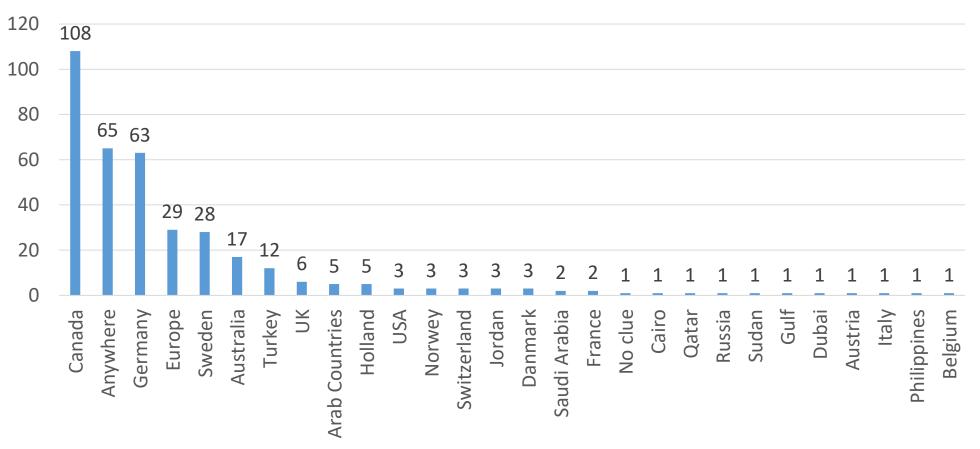
Return: 2016

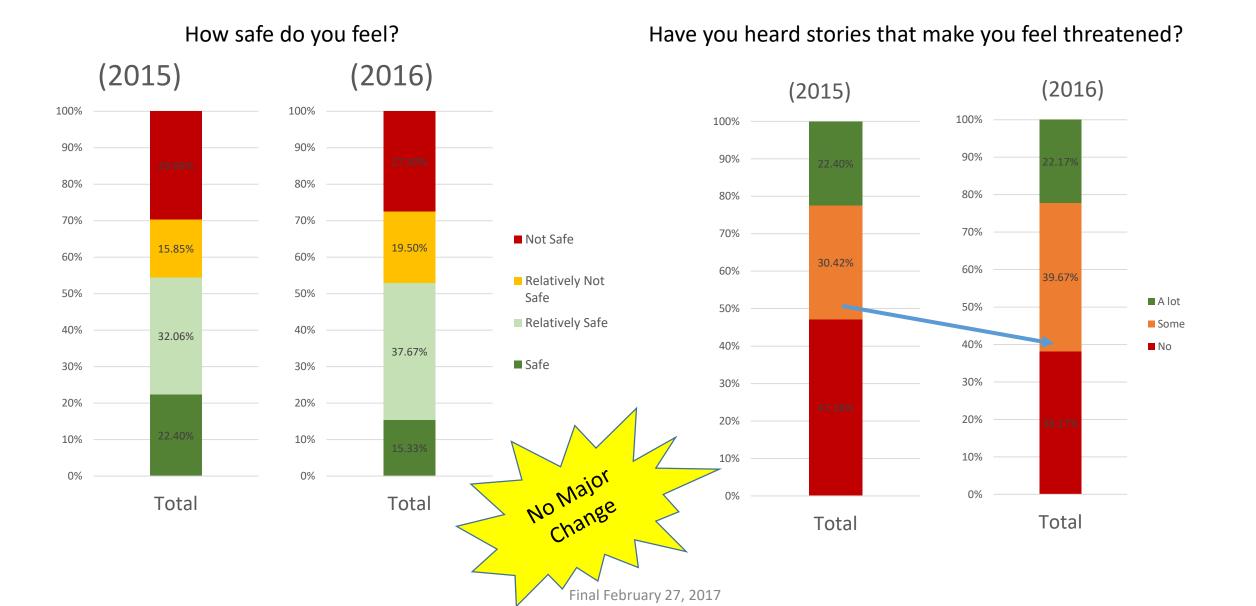


What is required so that you consider returning to Syria?

Resettlement: 2016

If you could chose a 3rd country to go there, where would it be?





How do you rate your relation with Syrian refugees?

(2015)(2016) (2015)(2016)100% 100% 100% 100% 18.67% 90% 90% 90% 90% 31.15% 1.00% 80% 80% 80% 80% 40.83% 45.36% 70% 70% 70% 70% No Relation 60% 60% 60% 60% Very Bad No 50.33% 50% 50% 50% 50% Bad ■ If it saves money 37.34% Normal Maybe 40% 40% 40% 40% 27.17% Good 18.03% Sure 30% Very Good 30% 30% 30% 20% 20% 20% 20% 10% 10% 10% 10% Minor Improvement 0% 0% 0% 0% Total Total Total Total Final February 27, 2017

Would you hire a Syrian refugee?

Would you hire a Syrian refugee?

	2016
Yes	59%
No	41%

Would you accept that Syrian refugees live in your neighborhood?

	2016
Yes	55%
No	45%

Would you send your kids to school with Syrian refugees?

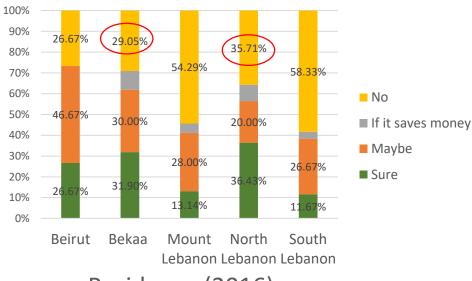
	2016
Yes	43%
No	57%

Would you allow your child to marry a Syrian refugee?

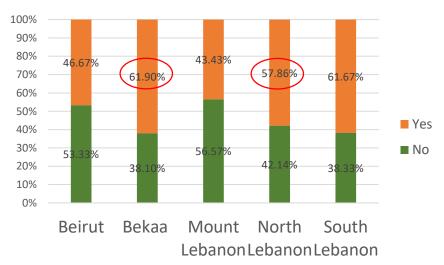
	2016
Yes	22%
No	78%

In 2016, 41% of Lebanese respondents would not hire a Syrian refugee, 45% would not accept refugees in their neighborhood, 57% would not send their kids to school with refugees, and 78% refuse that their children marry a Syrian refugee.

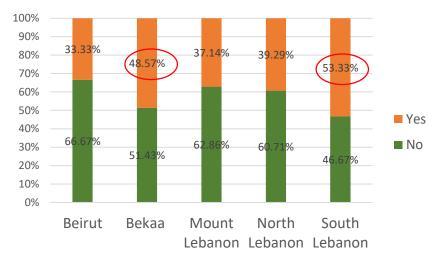
Hiring (2016)



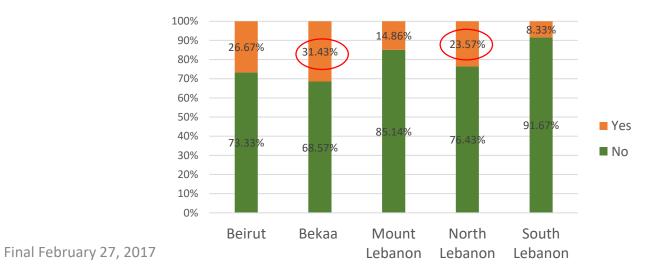
Residence (2016)



Schools (2016)



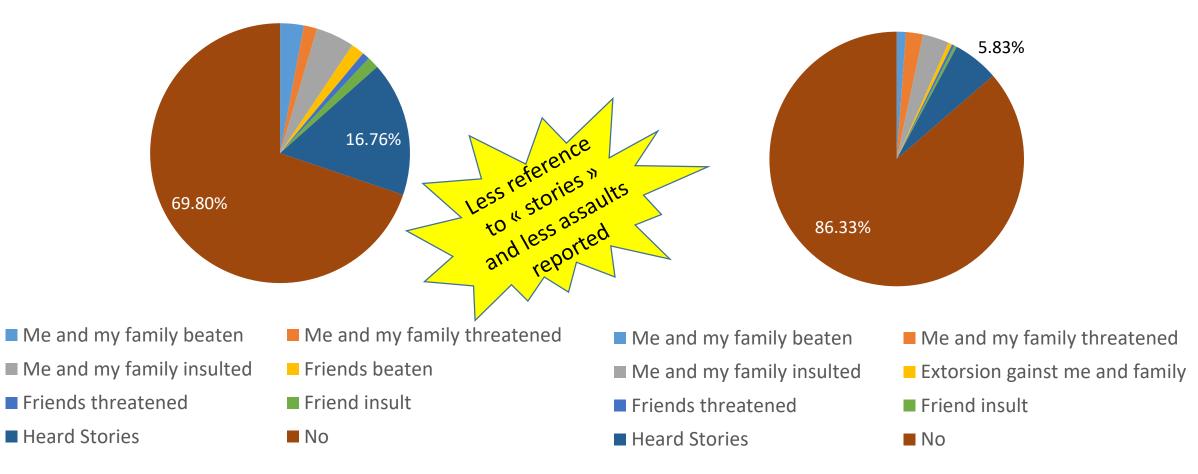




Assault (2015)

In 2015: assaults reported by 13% of the Lebanese, with a 17% of people saying they "heard stories". While in 2016: assaults reported by 8% of the Lebanese with much less (6%) saying that they heard stories.

Assault (2016)



Number of reported Syrians assaults increased from 293 to 365, while number of reported Lebanese assaults decreased from 51 to 43

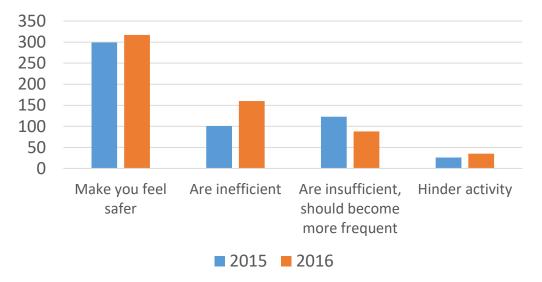
Year	Syrians Assaulted (self and family)	Lebanese Assaulted (self and family)
2015	24.4%	8.5%
2016	30.4%	7%

Syrians increased .

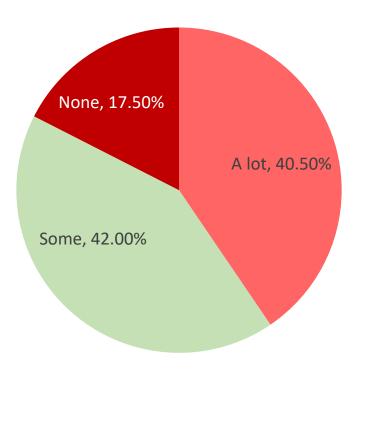
those reported by

ebanese decreased.

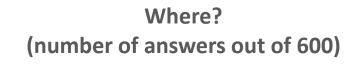
Effectiveness of Checkpoints (Lebanese)

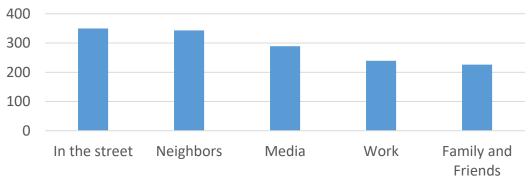


Have you recently heard statements expressing hate against Syrian refugees?

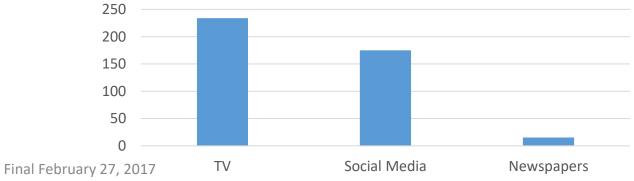


40% said they heard a lot of stories expressing hates against Syrian refuges. Most stories were heard in the street, among neighbors, and in the media (mainly TV).

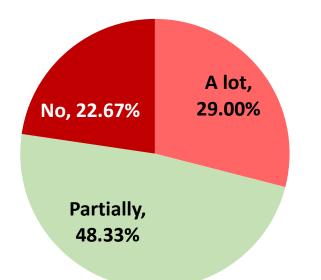




Which Media? (number of answers out of 600)



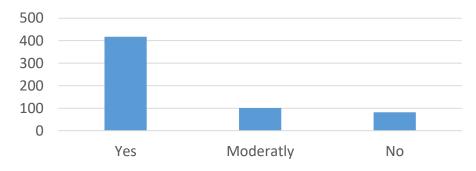
Do you think that media impact your perception of refugees?



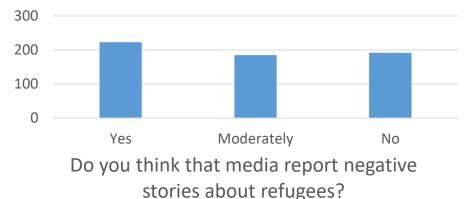
- 29% of Lebanese respondents think that media impact perception of refugees a lot, and 48% think that the impact is partial.
- More than two thirds says that humanitarian stories about refugees impact them.
- More than two thirds also acknowledge that declarations in the media trigger reactions against refugees, and that media report negative stories about refugees.

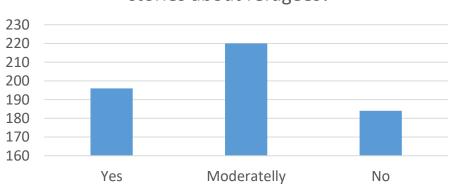
Final February 27, 2017

Do humanitarian stories about refugees impact you?



Do you think that declarations in the media are triggering reactions against refugees?







Syrians

Lebanese

Access to jobs	Same
Revenue	Increase
Access to services	Increase
Friendships/Feeling Welcome	Same
Residency Permits	Decrease
UNHCR Registration	Same
Feeling that Residency impacts safety	Increase
Institutional approval score	Slight increase
Assaults against Syrian	Increase
Abuse	Increase
Problems with checkpoints	Increase

Safety	Same
Feeling threatened	Decrease
Relation with Syrian	Same
Willingness to hire Syrian	Slight increase
Assaults against Lebanese	Decrease
Abuse	Decrease
Checkpoint efficiency	Same (High)

On the Syrian side, some resilience is reflected by the increase in access to jobs and services. However, some vulnerability remains with regards to security, mobility, and assaults, due to absence of legal papers. In Parallel, on the Lebanese side, there is an increase in feeling of security, and maybe a slight increase in willingness to hire Syrians.

Nevertheless, Lebanese host communities remain distant socially for Syrian refugees and recognize the impact of media on their perceptions.

Economic and Social Integration:

- The new survey show the percentage of Syrians working has not changed: 61% in 2016 against 62% in 2015.
- However, average family revenue has gone up: 422\$ in 2016 against 350\$ in 2015.
- The mapping of work in Syria against work in Lebanon shows that farming skills are unused, as only 20% of those working in farming in Syria are doing the same in Lebanon. Students (of age 18 and above) have not been able to pursue their education (only 9% did). Those who had their own business in Syria, don't have this opportunity in Lebanon.
- There is no noticeable change with regards to friendships or whether refugees feel welcome in Lebanon (63 % don't feel welcome in 2016 compared to 62% in 2015).
- When asked to choose between a series of worries, refugees rated security highest. Health came next, followed by Education. When asked to add other worries, 33% of those who responded mentioned rent, work, and inflation.

Registration:

- While 30% had residency permits in 2015, 21.3% said they have residency in 2016, a decrease in 9%.
- As for UNHCR registration, there is no noticeable change: 79% were registered in 2015, against 77% in 2016.
- A bigger number fell that legal residency impacts safety: 97% in 2016, compared to 88% in 2015.
- Approval score of most institutions slightly raised. Less people "don't know".

Security:

- 293 personal assaults reported by Syrian respondents in 2015 and 365 reported in 2016.
- 86% of these cases where explicitly blamed on Lebanese offenders in 2015 and 87% in 2016. Assault increased in the Bekaa.
- In 2015, 46% of Syrian Refugees have been victim of abuse while in Lebanon, 69% did nothing about it. While in 2016, 50% of Syrian refugees have been victim of abuse while in Lebanon, 72% did nothing about it.
- The percentage of refugees who reported insults, harassment, blackmailing, eviction, etc. by civil society increased from a total of 658 in 2015 to a total 829 in 2016.

Checkpoints:

- 37% had problems with checkpoints in 2015. 58% have problems with checkpoints in 2016.
- Most respondents said that checkpoints are important to them. In 2016: 56% of them said the main reason is to go to work, while 23 % mentioned access to services, and 6% mentioned access to aid.
- 59% worry about Arrest/Detention on checkpoints, while 21% are worried not to be able to cross, and 10% worry about verbal abuse.
- No noticeable change in difficulty to move around reported by Refugees. However, more refugees realize that this is due to checkpoints (34% in 2016 compared to 18% in 2015).

- 45% had problems accessing services in 2015 and 29% in 2016.
- 37% said they were treated worse than others when accessing services in 2015 and 42% in 2016.
- Perception of security agencies is lower among refugees who don't have legal residency.
- Those referring to sponsorship as a difficulty with regards to legal registration seem to be more subject to humiliation and less secure.
- The vicious circle of insecurity was tested again and validated:
 - 1. Lack of residency has a direct impact on Syrian respondents' mobility, access to services, assault, and vulnerability.
 - 2. This vulnerability has a direct impact on their safety.

Return and Resettlement:

- 96% of Syrian refugees said they will go back to Syria if things go back to normal.
- 81% said that, if they go back to Syria, they will go back to their place of origin.
- When asked what alternative country they would choose if they could leave Lebanon, 108 mentioned Canada, 65 said "anywhere", 63 mentioned German, 29 mentioned Europe, 28 mentioned Sweden, 17 mentioned Australia, 12 mentioned Turkey, 6 mentioned the UK, 5 mentioned Arab countries, 5 mentioned Holland, 3 mentioned the USA, and the rest were scattered in various other destinations.
- Security and safety are a key requirement for return to Syria.

Lebanese Respondents:

- There is no change with regards to Lebanese respondents' safety (about 55% feel safe).
- The percentage of Lebanese respondents who heard stories that made them feel threatened decreased from 47% in 2015 to 38% in 2016.
- A higher percentage of Lebanese consider their relation with refugees "normal" (50% in 2016, compared to 37 % in 2015), while less consider that they have no relation with refugees (19% in 2016 compared to 31% in 2015).
- 41% of Lebanese respondents would not hire a Syrian refugee, 45% would not accept refugees in their neighborhood, 57% would not send their kids to school with refugees, and 78% refuse that their children marry a Syrian refugee. Tolerance levels are higher in the Bekaa and the North.



- Less reference to « stories » and less assaults were reported by Lebanese in 2016. In 2015: assaults reported by 13% of the Lebanese, with a 17% of people saying they "heard stories". While in 2016: assaults reported by 8% of the Lebanese with much less (6%) saying that they heard stories.
- Assaults reported by Syrians increased and those reported by Lebanese slightly decreased.
- 40% of Lebanese respondents said that they heard a lot of stories expressing hates against Syrian refuges. Most stories were heard in the street, among neighbors, and in the media (mainly TV).



- 29% of Lebanese respondents think that media impact perception of refugees a lot, and 48% think that the impact is partial.
- More than two thirds says that humanitarian stories about refugees impact them.
- More than two thirds also acknowledge that declarations in the media trigger reactions against refugees, and that media report negative stories about refugees.